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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1904.

Political Organization.

Some of the Northern people have been commenting adversely on the scant vote in the South. The South might retaliate by commenting on the surplus vote in at least one city at the North. The Philadelphia Ledger says that the six wards comprised in the old "city proper" had a population in 1890 of 104,154. In 1900 this population had shrunk to 85,784. The vote returned from these six wards in 1890 was 20,622 and in 1900 it was 19,005. There has been some immigration into the eastern end of the old city since 1900, but not more than enough, it is said, to offset the population elsewhere. Yet the vote returned from these six wards aggregated 27,828, an increase of more than 40 per cent. in four years. The whole number of male persons twenty-one years of age and upward living in these six wards in 1900, including aliens, females and criminals was 84,476; yet the number of qualified voters registered for the last election was 37,877, being 4,400 more than all material out of which voters could possibly be made irrespective of constitutional qualifications. In the Seventh Ward, where the census shows 8,729 adult males, the assessors' lists show 10,563 voters; in the Tenth Ward, where the adult mass numbers 8,013 there are 4,389 voters registered.

The simple explanation of all this is that Philadelphia is dominated by a strong political organization which makes politics its business. It has an annual income, according to the Ledger, of about \$200,000, made up mostly of assessments from the 10,000 office holders, who are compelled to contribute a portion of their earnings that elections may be corrupted and officials chosen who will assist in perpetuating the organization. The organization also has a pull on banks in which city funds are deposited, upon those who hold city contracts and upon those who enjoy municipal benefits of sundry kinds. It is that sort of organization that is a curse to our municipalities. It is a political oligarchy which reaches out in all directions and gathers in. It is the worst form of the latter day trust, employing the money of the people to subsidize the servants of the people, using the servants of the people as agents in perpetuating its own power and using all things, public funds, public servants and the powerful influence which control, always exerts to puffer and line its own pockets with gold.

A blight upon such an oligarchy! It is an organization of oppression and corruption, and the curse of municipal government. Have we not as a people the intelligence, the courage and the rightness to shake it off and devise a safe, honest and business like scheme of municipal government that will eliminate political bossism and corruption and give to the people all the benefits of taxation? If not our boasted genius for self-government is vain.

The Inaugural Ball.

There was a deal of cheap talk to the galleries in the discussion before the House of Representatives on Monday last on the inaugural ball. One member took offense at the suggestion that the ball should be a "regal affair." He was opposed to having anything done in this country in a regal manner; he wanted everything to be done in a simple, democratic manner. "The whole tendency of the inaugural ball," said he, "is the creation of special privileges, to give to the enormously wealthy class an opportunity for display, and to the female members of three families who want to display their money in a most ostentatious manner—to show to the rest of the world that they are superior to everybody else—an opportunity to parade their jewels, their gowns, and their flairs, so that it can go all over the United States that Mrs. Tom Jones attended the President's inaugural ball, and that she was arrayed in such and such finery, which is believed to have cost \$5,000."

By the same token he might have objected to the inaugural parade and to all the pomp and circumstance of the entire occasion. There is nothing in it regal or kingly. It is proper that a great and wealthy nation like ours should make a fine display when the President is formally conducted into office. Such a display invites patriotism and enhances the respect of the people for the government. As for the inaugural ball, it is a time-honored custom, and the affair is thoroughly informal and democratic. Of course, those who go wish to make a good

appearance, and there is much display of fine clothes and jewelry—it may be in some instances a disgusting display, but that is a matter of individual taste, and the display certainly adds to the enjoyment of the women folk. But there are no exclusive privileges in the ball room. All classes of people are entitled to attend, and the mixing of the people in social intercourse tends to promote the democratic spirit. Those who do not believe in dancing need not dance, and those who do not believe in balls need not attend. But Congress has no business to be expressing an opinion on that phase of the subject. Such interference would have the strong flavor of government interference in religious matters. If there is any harm in a ball, the harm is from a religious point of view, and with that the government has nothing to do.

Will Lawson be Brought to Book?

It is reported from New York that Thomas W. Lawson is to be arrested on the complaint of H. H. Rogers, of the Standard Oil Company, and held to account for his accusations. Lawson has been talking like a wild man, but many persons believe that there is much truth in the charges which he has made against the captains of finance, and there is a deep-seated impression that the captains are afraid to bring him to book for in doing so they would be compelled to bring themselves to book. Lawson might not be able to make good, but when an investigation is once begun there is no telling where it will end, and there is ground for belief that the corporations which Lawson has accused are not willing to take the public into their confidence and make a show-down.

But no matter how wild Lawson may be, no matter if he has turned "State's evidence," no matter if he has made a ludicrous and disgusting exhibition of himself, he has caught the public ear and he has set the people to thinking. He has at least aroused suspicion, and he has put the captains of finance on the defensive. It is not enough for them to deny. It is not enough for them to call upon Lawson to make good his accusations. In order to take themselves out of the shadow of popular suspicion, they must come out into the sunlight of publicity and prove their innocence.

Possibly Mr. Rogers has determined to pursue that course. If so, he will do well, and others who have been similarly accused will do well to follow his example.

The Winter Solstice.

Well, well, old winter from this time on, your days will lengthen and your power decrease, for the sun having made his southern journey and stopped at Tropic of Capricorn, begins his northward march to-day, bringing in his train, spring and summer and flowers, and leaves and fruit and warmth and light and life.

Who was it that said "the darkest hour is just before dawn?" for he might well have added that chill winter's shortest day and longest night mark the turning of the tide to the heat and light of summer. And the maker of proverbs might well have blessed the sun that having reached his southernmost point, he made no long tarrying, but hastened his steps to return north once more. All nations, tribes and peoples have in all times worshipped the sun as the giver of life, and it was the most natural of instincts that made the old Romans rejoice at the winter ending of the sun's journey. Solstitium, "sun standing still," they called it, for they knew that even with the snow and cold of bleak January and bitter February to follow, the solstice meant the coming of May and June throbbing with warmth and life. So, too, in the midst of the long golden afternoons and summer twilights of June, the thoughtful feel an involuntary pang at the prospect of passing summer and coming winter; when on June the 21st the sun stops for a moment on the tropic of cancer to behold the limitless plains of Arctic ice and then starts south with the unrestrained north harrising his retreat.

Enough of proverbs, and enough of snow, and even though we cannot escape more of both, let us be glad that the long lane, be it good or ill, turns at last.

Mr. Wyso's Card.

We print elsewhere a communication from Mr. J. C. Wyso, late nominee of the Democratic party for Congress in the Ninth District, in which he outlines the causes of his defeat and in which he also makes some general observations on Virginia politics worthy of note. Mr. Wyso's communication speaks for itself and is well worth reading. We are especially interested in what he has to say on the subject of honest elections. He states the plain truth when he says that Democrats cannot complain of Republicans for buying votes so long as they show a willingness to do the same thing, and that so long as both political parties are inclined to buy votes neither has the right to complain because the other happens to have the longer purse.

There is less excuse for Democrats than for Republicans in vote-buying, for the Democrats have put themselves on record as being opposed to the corrupt practice and have made a law to punish all who engage in it. Mr. Wyso also says that the pure elections law will not in itself prevent the corrupt use of money in elections. "The law," says he, "merely expresses a high and lofty sentiment, proved by all good men, but our only hope is to educate the people to place a higher value upon the right of suffrage. We cannot entirely agree with him in this. The law has no force within itself, but if it is backed by strong sentiment and rigidly enforced it will go a long way, certainly, toward purifying elections and preventing the traffic in votes. For our part, we are in favor of amending the law so as to make the penalties even more severe. It has long been our contention, and we are more and more convinced of the right and righteousness, of our position that every person convicted of either buying or selling a vote should be perpetually disfranchised.

We do agree, however, entirely with

Mr. Wyso in his contention that as the Democracy has control of our election machinery, "the duty devolves upon it to provide the State with election officials true and conscientious, fearless and faithful, incorrupt and incorruptible, sustained and maintained by the whole power of the Commonwealth." With honest election officials we may have and will have honest elections under any law with dishonest officials we shall have dishonest elections no matter how good the law may be.

Mr. Wormley's Poems.

The volume entitled, "Poems by Carter W. Wormley," was recently reviewed at length by The Times-Dispatch, but as Mr. Wormley is a citizen of Richmond and as his poems have been so favorably received, it seems to us proper to make special mention in these columns of the attractive little book which has arrived in time for the holidays.

Mr. Wormley demonstrates in his poems that he is capable of "lofty themes and thoughts that soar on high" and he has shown genius in the technique of verse making. His initial poem, "The Dove," is written in the metre of Poe's "Bells" and in rhythm and musical jingle will compare most favorably with that noted composition of the author of "The Raven."

Quite different from "The Dove" is "Bill Cranton, a Tale of the Mills." This is written in Western dialect, in the style of Bret Harte, and that distinguished poet would not have felt ashamed to be its author.

One of the best of all the poems is "Waters of March," which is written in a different strain from that of either of the others mentioned. It breathes of sorrow and reads as though it "gushed from the heart" of the author in some moment of inspired sadness—as naturally "as tears from the eyelids start."

There are other poems on various subjects and with few exceptions, they are of real merit and highly creditable to the author. We congratulate Mr. Wormley upon the success of his first volume and hope that he will be encouraged to other endeavors in literature.

"Fewer Gallons; Wears Longer."

The secret is out, and Richmond can go on living just as if the riddle had never been asked. No, it can't, either. Richmond is not going to be what it was before. Its houses are going to be brighter, its people a little more prosperous; they are going to have more of their money left to buy other things with.

The answer to the riddle is this: You can paint a building with fewer gallons of Devco Lead and Zinc paint than with mixed brands. It will wear several times as long as a building painted with lead and oil mixed by hand.

There's proof abundant of it all over the United States. There will soon be proof abundant of it in Richmond.

What will people do with the rest of their money? Nebraska is threatening to send to the United States Senate a Mr. Burkott, who, if he gets there, will have the distinction of being the youngest man in that august body. He is just thirty-seven years old. However, the Senate is not the body of patriarchs that it used to be. There are a number of men in it who would be offended if they were called old. Mr. Hemenway, who is to be the new senator from Indiana, is only forty-four. Senator Beveridge, who already holds a seat, is two years younger, being but forty-two. Senator Dick, of Ohio, who succeeded Mr. Hanna, is only forty-six. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, although he has already been Attorney-General, is fifty-one, and Senator Crane, of Massachusetts, who has just entered the Senate to succeed a very old man, is the same age as Senator Knox. "Youngsters" are getting to the front, even in the United States Senate.

Newport News is to build the cruiser North Carolina, and when launching time comes, the folks from "down home" will simply take the shipbuilding town all the way from the shipyard gate to the border line of Hampton.

Richmond does not do anything by halves, and when it comes to looking out for the poor and afflicted in bad weather she goes a little beyond the 700 per cent. mark.

George Ade's great literary work has done its worst. He now has to live on breakfast foods, and has nothing stronger than filtered rain water to drink.

The moral of the Lawson-Greene make-up is that novices and lambs had better keep off the Amalgamated Copper market for quite a while yet.

The old fashioned Virginia esneog will come a little high this year, because of the dolings of the alleged egg-cold storage trust.

If you find in your Christmas stocking a note signed Andrew Carnegie, you had better see the great library builder before you get it cashed.

Having set the date for his own political funeral, the Honorable David Bennett Hill has but a few more days to live, as a political leader.

It is hard to tell which furnishes the most disgusting reading matter, the Smoot case investigation, the Chadwick trial or the Nan Patterson business in New York.

President Harper, of the Chicago University, has touched up the oil consuming pump for another \$3,000,000. As usual Mr. Rockefeller advanced it.

Parodies on the "Night Before Christmas" are now in order—in some other newspaper office.

Circulating paper in a Chadwickian sense is liable to land the circulator in a State prison somewhere.

You had ample warning. Now, if you are crowded this week with your Christmas shopping, do not blame The T. D.

There have been bigger snows in old Virginia, but very few if any that were better fitted for sleighing purposes.

SHORT TALKS ON RAILROADS

THE ELKINS ACT.

We pointed out some weeks ago in an article on anti-trust legislation that the Elkins act, which was passed February, 1903, was the most thorough-going and efficient piece of legislation yet enacted for the prevention of rate cutting. It is noteworthy that such a radically repressive measure should have been offered by a trust magnate and passed by a Republican Congress. This act, however, with all its power, offers no redress to the shipper, who complains that the rates are too high, and asks a cut not only for himself, but for all the world as well. When discriminatory or unduly high rates are in force, the shipper has no redress under the Elkins act so long as the railroads impartially hold up every shipper alike. Of course, such improper rates are "forbidden by law," but their unlawfulness must first be determined by the Interstate Commerce Commission. If the power of the Federal courts is to be used to enforce their enforcement. Under the terms of this act, the railroads cannot give shippers a lower rate than the published tariff except upon payment of heavy fines. Several noteworthy advances are made by this act over previous similar laws, in that it makes the offending company as well as its agent liable to prosecution and fine. Also, while previous legislation required the complainant to show that shippers were actually charged both the published and the private rate, the present law only requires a departure from the published rate to be shown. This greatly simplifies the case, which the complainant has to make out, for it is no longer necessary to show actual discrimination, a mere departure from the published rate, whether for all shippers or for a particular shipper, is sufficient. This act empowers United States circuit courts to restrain by injunction or other appropriate process any departure from published rates or "any discriminations forbidden by law." This writ is enforceable both against the carrier and the parties interested in shipping at the lower rate. The Interstate Commerce Commission in its report of December 15, 1903, commends the Elkins act as a salutary and efficient measure which does all that is possible by way of punishing and restraining the railroads in their direct rate cutting, and adds that never before in our history has the adherence to published rates been so general as at present. It is well to remember, however, that the inducement to cut rates is very slight when all the roads are crowded with traffic. The real strain

comes in bad times, and that test has not yet been applied to the Elkins act. Commenting on this seemingly serene condition, the commission says "that unfair discriminations still exist to the great advantage of favored shippers and contrary to the spirit and interest of the Elkins act. This condition, however, is due to the recently worked out scheme of side-track and switching charges whereby the switching tracks as a separate railroad, are enabled to get important rebates in freight rates under the guise of apportioning the cost of transportation between the various carriers. To us shippers have been recently brought to light by the Armour Company and Harvester Company cases, which were tried last month in Chicago before Judge Grosscup, with the result that the public are now informed even if they are not protected."

Removal of the rate cutting evil, though it helps to clear up the situation, by no means settles the equally vital and pressing question of the rate making power. Since its creation the Interstate Commerce Commission has not ceased to urge that sufficient powers be given some responsible tribunal to insure the making of fair and reasonable rates. At present the commission has the innocuous right of protest and the futile redress of recommendation. Its actual powers for relieving a shipper from hardship of an unreasonable rate consist solely in declaring the rate too high. To quote from the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission for 1903: "However plain a given case may appear, or however clearly injustice may be established by pertinent proof, the only order which the commission has power to make is the limited and inconclusive order to 'cease and desist' from charging the rates or doing the things found to be unlawful. Even that order has no binding force upon the carrier, but can be disregarded with impunity until compliance is decreed by the courts at the end of tedious and expensive litigation."

The substantial result of such complaints by the shipper is little more than investigation and publicity, for the railroads can meet the order of the commission by reducing the rate just enough to avoid it in contemplation of law, without thereby giving any real relief to shippers. In the opinion of the commission the aggrieved shippers complain formally not from any hope of real advantage, but because they see no other way of escape from conditions which they regard as intolerable.

QUERIES and ANSWERS

A Point in Grammar.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—The following was recently published in your query column:
"Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
"Sir,—Will you inform me if those two sentences are right? When do you think he will come?" He will not deluge to do any more than he can help."
"READER."

"We can see no grammatical flaw in these sentences."
The position which you occupy is that of a busy man, who needs and has a duty to perform, and your necessary disregard of finical niceties breeds a tolerance which is expressed in your opinion that the two sentences above will pass.

With your permission, however, I should like to call attention to serious defects in them both.
Touching the first, the interrogative adverb, when, belongs to the verb which has the interrogative form, and the sentence forces "when" to apply to the thing and not to the coming. It is impossible to regard the sentence "do you think he will come?" as a question, because that leaves "when he will come" to ask a question, and the words are not in proper interrogative shape. This use probably grew out of the case of "will," which is a negative form may be employed with adverbs and conjunctions; as, "When you think he will come," "If you think he will come," etc. The force of interrogative words is, however, in English, to draw out the verb of the subject, and while one would hardly be so sanguine as to expect a reformation in this matter, the only permissible form of the sentence referred to is, "When do you think he will come?"

Regarding the second sentence, I should like to remind you that many years ago I suggested the substitution of "never" in place of "ever" in such forms as "He tried ever so hard," etc., and any one who will look out for the use in the English of the subject, could tell me how many at least have inclination to follow the suggestion. This might justify the hope that a trifle of admonition will not be wasted if it is applied to the error in this second sentence, an error frequently committed, but easy, if a little awkward, to correct.

The sentence implies that there is something he cannot help doing. The person is unwilling to do more than a fixed amount, and that amount is what he can not help. The sentence ought, therefore, to read: "He will not do any more than he cannot help," or, as you have it, "He will not deluge to do any more than he cannot help."
J. H.

We are of the opinion that the foregoing objections are not well taken. Such objections could be urged with far greater force against such expressions as "I had rather go," "You had better mend your ways," and many other idiomatic locutions of our mother tongue. The fact is, usage is the supreme law of language, and grammarians and grammar-grinders have no more right to reject expressions used by reputable writers than spelling book and dictionary-makers have to reject words that have passed into the common treasury of speech. Such sentences as those to which J. H. objects can be found in every good writer of English, from Chaucer to Matthew Arnold. They are too deeply imbedded in the foundations of our noble English tongue to be removed by the fragile implements of capricious critics. There are hundreds of virtue phrases and clauses used by the greatest masters of English that defy critics to put them into grammatical straight-jackets.

The Land Problem.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—The land problem in your last issue, divide 118.35 by 100 (three per cent), and you get 1.1835. This is worth \$20 per acre, the second 118.35 per acre, and the third \$12 per acre, may be solved arithmetically and more simply as follows:

Find the least common multiple of 30, 15 and 12, which is 60; divide 60 by 20, 15 and 12, and you have 3, 4 and 5, respectively; this is the proportion in which the land must be divided; that is, the tracts or subdivisions will contain 3-12 of 118.35, 28.83 9-12; 4-12 of 118.35=39.78 4-12, and 5-12 of 118.35=48.72 11-12 acres, respectively. Proof: the sum of these numbers equal 118.35 acres.

Problem in Geometry.

Please solve the following problem in geometry:
1. The product of the legs of a right triangle is equal to the hypotenuse of the altitude from the vertex of the right angle.
2. The areas of two triangles which have an angle of the one supplementary to an angle of the other, are to each other as the products of the sides, including the supplementary angles.

1. A B C and B A D are similar triangles, because they have a common angle, B A D, and a right angle in each, and, therefore, the angles are equal. The homologous sides give the proportion A C : A B :: B C : B D, and the product of the extremes A C and B D is equal to the product of the means A B and B C, which was to be found.

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Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—Frequent inquiries are made of me as to the causes of my defeat for Congress in the Ninth District. Some of these inquiries are from men prominent in public life. The real inquiry should be as to the causes of Democratic defeat. My vote exceeded Judge Parker's in every county in the district except Washington county, in which his vote exceeded mine by twenty-five. My total vote by the district exceeds his total vote by five hundred and fourteen.

There were three chief factors which co-operated to compass the defeat of the Democrats. First, the Republicans were better organized. They had more funds with which to pay the legal expenses necessary to effect and perfect their organization. The Democrats were practically without any means for this purpose. Second, the Democrats were not as well organized as the Republicans. The Republicans looked after this matter diligently. The Democratic chairman was right in his frequent assertion that the Democracy was defeated on the day of the election. Third, there is a very large floating vote in the Ninth District. Republicans succeed in causing practically all of this vote to vote for them.

But we are more interested in the remedies for the situation than we are in the causes of the defeat. The Democracy in the Ninth should be better organized and brought closer together in the next campaign, and through it with the national organization. But we should rely chiefly upon helping ourselves. We should be elected for the purpose of carrying the district next fall for the Democrats. We should be elected for the purpose of carrying the district next fall for the Democrats. We should be elected for the purpose of carrying the district next fall for the Democrats.

Mr. Carnegie's Address.
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—Was reading in your Sunday paper something written by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, assuming to be given in New York. Some time ago he was in New York; if so, where can he be located? Am anxious to write to him on business.

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Mr. Carnegie's address is No. 3 East Ninety-first Street, New York city, N. Y.

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Yeast ferments the food.
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Royal Baking Powder saves health.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

DECEMBER 21ST IN WORLD'S HISTORY

78. Festival of St. Thomas, the Christian apostle, whose counsels penetrated into India. He was killed by the Bramins and buried at Mellapour, about ten miles from Madras.

1007. Milton's widow disposed of her entire interest in the "Paradise Lost" for eight pounds. Ten pounds was paid to the author in his lifetime.

1710. First number of the Boston Gazette issued by William Brooker.

1775. An act of Parliament confiscating all American vessels found floating on the water, and for impressing the crews of American vessels into the British navy, without distinction of persons.

1807. The Danish islands of St. Thomas and St. Johns, in the West Indies, surrendered to the British.

1833. John P. Hungerford died; an officer in the Revolutionary army, and afterwards a member of Congress from Virginia.

1848. The Asiatic cholera broke out with great violence among the United States troops at Port Lavaca, Texas.

1808. Edwin S. Barrett died.

1902. The body of Julia Dent Grant entombed beside that of her husband.

1902. The first complete transatlantic wireless telegraphic message sent by Marconi from his station at Table Head, Nova Scotia.

J. C. WYSOR TELLS ABOUT THE NINTH

Cause of Democratic Defeat and Remedies for the Future.

QUESTION OF BUYING VOTES

Democrats Cannot Blame Republicans as Long as They Show Desire to Buy Votes

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